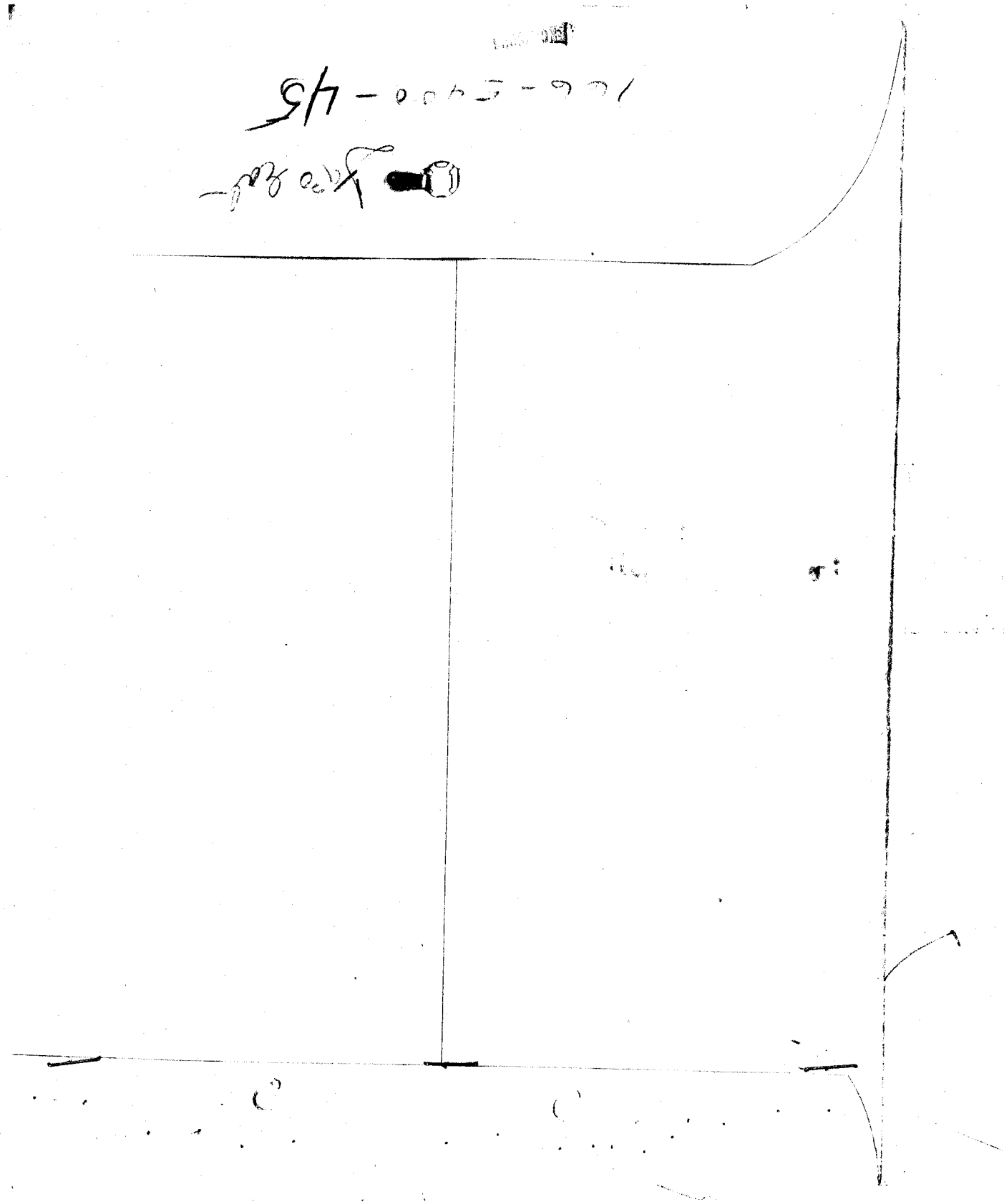

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Gambling Data, Arms, Cash Seized

FBI STAGES BET RAIDS HERE

Agent Sees Organized Crime Link

More than 60 FBI agents Sunday raided eight residences in Milwaukee and its suburbs, as well as a downtown tavern, just before kickoff of the Super Bowl and confiscated large quantities of gambling records, firearms, dynamite and $20,000 in cash.

Herbert E. Hoxie, special agent in charge of the Milwaukee FBI office, said the simultaneous raids were "in connection with organized crime activity centered" here.

The raids, along with a related one in Marathon, Fla., climaxed a year long investigation into several highly organized, large scale bookmaking operations, Hoxie said.

Among the items confiscated were 93 sticks of dynamite, taken from Richie's On Broadway tavern, 346 N. Broadway, according to an FBI agent.

The Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department explosive ordinance unit was called in to dispose of the dynamite.

Also taken in the raids were gambling paraphernalia and records involving extensive betting on the National Football League Super Bowl game between the Minnesota Vikings and the Miami Dolphins in Houston, Tex., Hoxie said.

Three wiretaps on telephones at some of the locations raided were approved by Federal Judge John W. Reynolds and Federal Judge Thomas E. Fairchild of the Circuit Court of Appeals late last year, according to Asst. US Atty. Jeffrey Hirschberg.

It was on the basis of information gleaned from the wiretaps that US Court Commissioner John C. McBride last Friday approved the issuance of 20 search warrants — 10 warrants naming Milwaukee and Florida locations and 10 warrants naming individuals here and in Florida.

No arrests were made and no charges were filed, but information and evidence collected in the raids will go to a grand jury, FBI agents said.

Named in the search warrants were:

- Sidney A. Brodson, 66, of 2420 E. Stratford Ct., Shorewood, who gained national attention in 1951 when he testified before the Kefauver crime investigating committee about his extensive sports betting activities.
- Robert George Pick, 60, of Marathon, Fla., formerly of Milwaukee and a convicted gambler.
- John Joseph Morn Jr., 40, of 670 Meadow La., Elm Grove.
- August Samuel Palmisano, 45, of 5358 N. Kent Ave., Whitefish Bay.
- James G. Kops; 36, of 943 E. Circle Dr., Whitefish Bay.
- George Kermendy, 52, of 3571 S. 61st St., West Allis, a convicted commercial gambler.

1-WA-
1-MI-

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-1
Milwaukee Sentinel
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date: 1/14/74
Edition: Final
Author:
Editor:
Title:

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Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Milwaukee

☐ Being Investigated

166-5400-45

The maximum penalty for interstate transportation in aid of racketeering is a $10,000 fine and five years in prison.

George Kermendy Robert Pick Sidney Brodson Steven Halmo August S. Palmisano

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI Raids 9 Homes, Bar in Sports Gambling Probe

Sixty FBI agents raided eight Milwaukee area residences, a downtown tavern and a home in Florida just before kickoff time of the Super Bowl game Sunday and confiscated large quantities of gambling materials and paraphernalia, firearms and 93 sticks of dynamite.

The raids were made on search warrants executed on 11 persons, 10 here and one at Marathon, Fla., in a simultaneous raid, according to Herbert E. Hoxie, special agent in charge of the FBI here.

Jeffrey Hirschberg, an assistant US attorney here, said no arrests were made and no charges were filed, but information and evidence will be presented to a grand jury.

"The raids climax a 12 month investigation into several large scale, highly organized bookmaking operations which handle football, basketball and horse racing wagers," Hoxie said.

He said that included in the material seized were records involving extensive betting on the football game at Houston.

The persons named in the search warrants, some of whom have long been connected with gambling operations here, are:

Sidney A. Brodson, 66, of 2420 E. Stratford Ct., Shorewood; John Joseph Morn Jr., 40, of 670 Meadow La., Elm Grove; Steven John Halmo, 52, of 716 S. 7th St.; August Samuel Palmisano, 45, of 5358 N. Kent Ave., Whitefish Bay; Raymond John Dulski, 35, of 4439 S. 38th St., Greenfield; Donald J. Danowski, 31, of 1930 W. Rogers St.; Richard I. Thoma, 39, of 5419 N. 83rd St.; James G. Kops, 36, of 943 E. Circle Dr., Whitefish Bay; George Kermendy, 52, of 3571 S. 61st St., West Allis; Russell J. Kent, 31, of 614 S. 63rd St., and Robert George Pick, 60, of Marathon, Fla.

Hoxie said the locations searched were Richie's Tavern, 346 N. Broadway; 716 S. 7th St.; 2420 E. Stratford Ct., Shorewood; 943 E. Circle Dr., Whitefish Bay; 670 Meadow La., Elm Grove; 3571 S. 61st St., West Allis; 614 S. 63rd St.; 1805 S. 25th St., 2491 S. Superior, St., and 7 Grouper Dr., Marathon, Fla.

Testified in 1951

Brodson gained national attention in 1951 when he testified before the Kefauver congressional crime investigating committee about extensive betting activities. Brodson testified that he bet more than a million dollars a year on sports events, primarily college basketball and football games.

Brodson later was convicted of federal income tax evasion, was fined $10,000 and served eight months in prison.

Palmisano, Dulski, Kermendy, Halmo and Pick have also been involved in court cases involving gambling here.

Richie's Tavern was raided in 1971 by Milwaukee vice squad officers in a gambling investigation.

Hirschberg said 800 telephone calls were monitored, with court approval, by FBI agents between Nov. 23 and Dec. 13, 1973. He said the calls included requests for sports line information and wagers.

He said the callers usually used numbers instead of names and used a code under which a $1 bet meant $100, a nickel bet meant $500 and a dime bet meant $1,000.

Dynamite Seized

The dynamite was seized at Richie's Tavern, the FBI said. It was turned over to the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department for disposition by its explosive investigation unit.

Hirschberg said the intended use for the dynamite had not been learned. City ordinance prohibits possession of explosive material without a permit, with a maximum sentence of six months in jail and a $250 fine. It was not immediately learned whether a permit had been issued. State law prohibits storage of dynamite when it is intended for the commission of a crime.

Calls Recorded

Hirschberg said he believed that information from the recorded phone conversations involved persons in Las Vegas. He said calls in with gambling information were made from Las Vegas to persons in Milwaukee.

Wiretaps on the phones were approved by Federal Judges John W. Reynolds and Thomas E. Fairchild of the US Circuit Court of Appeals, Hirschberg said.

On the basis of information obtained, Hirschberg said, US Court Commissioner John C. McBride Friday approved issuance of the search warrants.

FBI agents involved in the raids were from Milwaukee, Kenosha and Madison, according to the officials.

Probe to Continue

Hoxie said material obtained would be used in the FBI's continuing investigation of gambling in this area under federal statutes dealing with illegal gambling businesses, interstate transmission of wagering information and interstate transportation in aid of racketeering, gambling, conspiracy and obstruction of justice.

The maximum penalty for taking part in illegal gambling business is a fine of $20,000 and five years in prison.

Maximum penalty for interstate transmission of wagering information is a $10,000 fine and five years in prison.

1-WA-
1-MI-

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-1
The Milwaukee Journal
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date: 1/14/74
Edition: Latest
Author:
Editor:
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Milwaukee

☐ Being Investigated

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● Raymond J. Dulski, 35, of 4439 S. 38th St., Greenfield, who was charged with commercial gambling in a county warrant in 1971. At the time, he was a bartender at Richie's tavern.

● Steven John Halmo, 52, of 716 S. 7th St., who was convicted of gambling on a state charge in 1969.

● Donald J. Danowski, 31, of 1930 W. Rogers St.

● Richard I. Thoma, 36, of 5419 N. 83rd St.

● Russell J. Kent, 31, of 614 S. 63rd St.

Hoxie said that the material obtained in the raids would be used in the FBI's "continuing investigation of gambling in this area under federal statutes dealing with illegal gambling businesses, the interstate transmission of wagering information" and interstate transportation of information to aid in racketeering.

The maximum penalty for taking part in illegal gambling businesses is a fine of $20,000, five years in prison or both.

The maximum penalty for conviction of interstate transmission of wagering information and interstate transportation of information to aid in racketeering is $10,000, five years in prison or both.

Hirschberg said he believed that information from the recorded phone conversations involved persons in Las Vegas, Nev.

He said that somebody in Las Vegas gave handicap bets over the phone and that persons in Milwaukee took the bets.

Two of the court ordered wiretaps were sought by the US Justice Department's Organized Crime Strike Force in Chicago, Hirschberg said.

An FBI agent said that the raids took place within a half hour of the midafternoon kickoff of the Super Bowl game. The searches took up to 2½ hours to complete, he said.

FBI agents involved in the raids were from Milwaukee, Kenosha and Madison.